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## Letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text and translation of a Declaration by the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) which was adopted on 14 June 2009 at a meeting of the Organization's Collective Security Council in Moscow (see annex).

I should be grateful if this document could be distributed as a document of the sixty-third session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 114, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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## Annex to the letter dated 6 July 2009 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

## Declaration by the Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization

The Heads of States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO): the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan, at a regular session of the Collective Security Council, discussed the development of the international situation, in particular in the area of CSTO responsibility, and issues of foreign policy cooperation between CSTO member States.

The Heads of CSTO member States note that the international situation shows a tendency to move towards a multipolar system of international relations and a strengthening of global and regional cooperation.

At the same time, there are still a number of negative elements that threaten the security of CSTO member States. In particular, the deadlock on multilateral disarmament issues has not been overcome; the danger of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction has not been eliminated; the inertia of power politics continues; and the negative impact of the world financial and economic crisis on the general situation is strongly evident. Concerted collective efforts at the national, regional and global levels to overcome this crisis could create the necessary conditions for enhancing mutual trust between States and the formation of a new and positive agenda for international relations.

In the view of the Heads of CSTO member States, the crisis in the Caucasus in August 2008 revealed the need for a reform of the existing European security system and has become a catalyst for international dialogue for that purpose.

The Heads of CSTO member States are committed to the goal of establishing a nuclear-weapon-free world and call on all countries to contribute to achieving that goal. They welcome the agreement reached by the Russian Federation and the United States to work together to achieve a gradual reduction in nuclear weapons and also support the universalization and comprehensive strengthening of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as one of the support mechanisms of the collective security system. They intend to work towards making this Treaty more effective on the basis of unconditional compliance by all parties to the Treaty with their obligations and respect for the integrity of the three basic components: non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The challenges to international security posed by the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the possibility of non-State entities gaining access to nuclear materials should be addressed on the basis of the NPT.

The Heads of the CSTO member States emphasize the great significance for multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation of the entry into force of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty and support the signing of a security assurances protocol by all the nuclear Powers.

The Heads of the CSTO member States call for collective work on developing a new security model for the Euro-Atlantic area to begin as soon as possible on the basis of the Russian initiative to conclude a European security treaty. The heads of the CSTO member States expect that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international and regional organizations will be able to make a contribution to the dialogue on that subject.

CSTO confirms its readiness to interact in a constructive manner with all interested stakeholders in the Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian regions. The serious lack of security in the Eurasian region can be eliminated only by the joint efforts of all States and international and regional organizations, while respecting the principle that States cannot strengthen their own security by reducing the security of others.

The Heads of the CSTO member States consider NATO to be an important security factor in the Euro-Atlantic region. The following issues, however, are causes of concern: the alliance's efforts to expand; movement of its infrastructure towards the borders of individual member States; promotion of the project for a third United States missile defence site in Eastern Europe; and the delay in the process of ratifying the adapted Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

The Heads of the CSTO member States expressed serious concern in relation to the complex situation in Afghanistan, which was becoming increasingly tense. There was also the continuing narcoterrorist threat from Afghan territory. Under these circumstances, the Heads of the CSTO member States are of the view that international efforts should be coordinated more effectively in order to help stabilize the situation in Afghanistan and counter those threats.

The Heads of the CSTO member States consider that in addition to the use of force to counter international terrorism, it is essential to intensify joint political and diplomatic efforts to seek peace in Afghanistan and they are willing to consider initiatives aimed in that direction.

The Heads of CSTO member States confirmed their readiness to increase their cooperation in international affairs with a view to furthering their common foreign policy objectives, strengthening the position of CSTO member States in the modern world and supporting their national security and stability interests.

Moscow

14 June 2009